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The Hidden Truth, the Other Side of Tranquility...

SO IN THE END, THE CHILDREN AND THE TANUKI BEGAN TO PLAY TOGETHER?

RIGHT?

I SEE.

SO IT'S A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MAN AND TANUKI.

IS THIS ONE ALSO TRUE?

WELL, IT MAY HAVE BEEN SPICED UP A TOUCH.

BUT MOSTLY TRUE.

ALMOST ALL OF THE STORIES YOU'VE TOLD ME ARE ONES I'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE.

OLD FOLK TALES LIKE THESE ARE USUALLY EITHER MORALISTIC FABLES OR CONVERSELY SEEM TO HAVE NO MEANING AT ALL,

BUT THAT ONE ABOUT A LONE HUMAN GETTING CAUGHT UP IN A GREAT BATTLE BETWEEN FOXES AND TANUKI WAS INTERESTING ENOUGH TO BE A NOVEL.

前回までのあらすじ

幻想郷の人里にある貸本屋「鈴奈庵」の娘、本居小鈴。彼女は「妖魔本」と呼ばれる、妖怪の存在を記した本を読む能力に目覚めていた。ある日、鈴奈庵を訪れた阿求が小説家の「アガサクリスQ」であることを見抜いたマミゾウは、自身の語る話を本に纏めることを阿求に依頼し――？

稗田阿求●人里に住んでいる人間。記憶力に非常に優れている。九代目のサヴァン。

AND THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!

COULD WE LEAVE IT AT THAT FOR NOW THOUGH?

I'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH TO FILL A VOLUME NOW,

AND I'LL NEED TO SPEND SOME TIME ORGANIZING ALL OF IT.

OH? THAT SO?

WELL, IF YOU CAN USE THEM, GO AHEAD.

GULP

SO MANY TANUKI STORIES. STIRRING ONES, SYMPATHETIC ONES, STORIES ABOUT HARD WORK AND GUTS...

IF THIS LITTLE LADY FILLS UP THOSE BOOKS OF HERS WITH STORIES LIKE THAT, THE HUMAN VILLAGE SHOULD START FEELING CLOSER TO US TANUKI.

IF THAT PANS OUT, THEN WE'LL BE FREE TO COME AND GO AS WE PLEASE HERE.

THE WAY TO GET THE HUMAN VILLAGE UNDER OUR THUMB IS TO WORM OUR WAY INTO THEIR HEARTS,

AND I THINK THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT IS THROUGH BOOKS.

SOMEONE ONCE SAID THAT WHOEVER CONTROLS THE VILLAGE CONTROLS GENSOKYO.

HEH HEH HEH, THE AGE OF THE TANUKI IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.

GLUG

GLANCE

AND PROBABLY THEIR BOSS, MAMIZOU FUTATSUIWA.

THIS PERSON IS DEFINITELY A TANUKI.

DOES SHE THINK I'M BLIND?

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE VALUABLE AND INTERESTING INFORMATION.

OKAY, I'VE GOT THEM MORE OR LESS ORGANIZED NOW.

FWUMP

I MEAN, COME ON, I KEEP GETTING GLIMPSES OF HER TAIL POPPING OUT WHENEVER SHE GETS CARELESS.

IT'S LIKE SHE'S NOT EVEN TRYING TO HIDE IT ANYMORE.

二ツ岩マミゾウ●幻想郷に居を構える化け狸。◆掴らぬ狸のティスガイザー◆。

SO WILL YOU CONSIDER PUTTING IT IN A BOOK THEN?

I THINK WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME WILL DEFINITELY MAKE FOR AN INTERESTING BOOK.

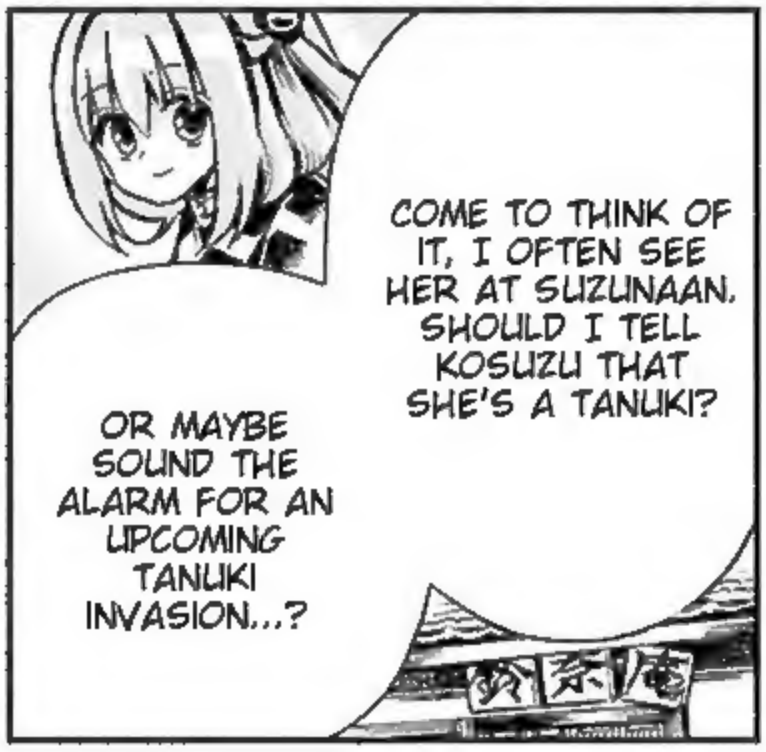
OH, JUST I WANTED TO HEAR.

I'LL DROP BY AGAIN SOME OTHER TIME.

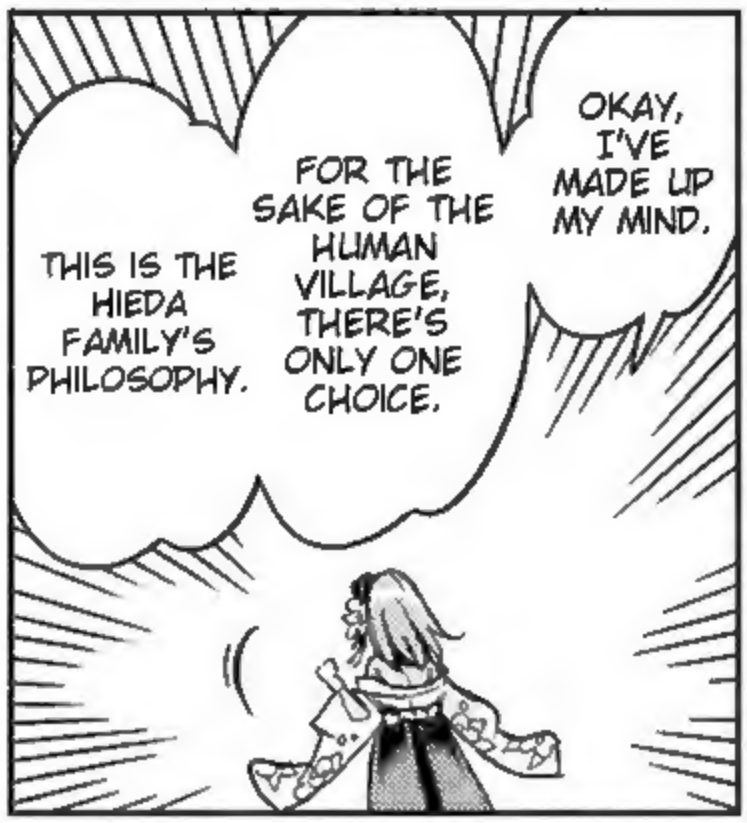
♪

Kadokawa Comics
東方鈴奈庵 ~Forbidden Scrollery. ❶~❻
原作:ZUN
漫画:暮河もえ
大好評発売中!!

IF SHE DECIDED TO GET VIOLENT I WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE.
I OFTEN HAVE TO DO THIS FOR WORK, SO I'M USED TO IT,
BUT BEING ALONE WITH A YOUKAI NEVER FAILS TO BE NERVE-WRACKING.


COME TO THINK OF IT, I OFTEN SEE HER AT SUZUNAAN. SHOULD I TELL KOSUZU THAT SHE'S A TANUKI?
OR MAYBE SOUND THE ALARM FOR AN UPCOMING TANUKI INVASION...?

THAT SAID, HER TANUKI STORIES *WERE* OF SOME VALUE TO ME.
THE QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT I SHOULD PUT THESE INTERESTING STORIES INTO A BOOK.



I FINALLY MADE IT.

I COULD SHOVEL THE SNOW, BUT IT'D JUST KEEP COMING DOWN.

CLINK

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT. WITH THE ROAD IN THAT STATE, NO ONE'S GOING TO VISIT.

ESPECIALLY IN THIS HARSH, SNOWY WINTER.

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO THE SHRINE.

I HAVE SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH YOU THAT I'D PREFER EVEN THE SERVANTS NOT TO HEAR.

SO I HAD TO COME HERE MYSELF.

BUT I WOULD'VE COME TO YOU IF YOU'D SENT FOR ME, YOU KNOW.

AREN'T YOU FRAIL ENOUGH AS IT IS?

REALLY?

SOUNDS PRETTY SERIOUS.

SO MAMIZOU'S UP TO HER OLD TRICKS.

AND SHE'S GOT HER EYE ON THAT CHRONICLE YOUR FAMILY'S BEEN KEEPING FOR GENERATIONS.

...I SEE.

BUT THEIR LOSS WOULD STILL BE ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE.

TRUE, I REALIZE THAT MY HISTORIES ARE MORE LIKE REFERENCE BOOKS THAN LIGHT READING, SO ONLY SPECIALISTS WILL LOOK AT THEM.

HOW RUDE.

AH!

BUT,

I DON'T SEE THE POINT. NOBODY READS THOSE BORING HISTORY BOOKS OF YOURS ANYWAY...

AGATHA CHRIS Q.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF HER?

IF MAMIZOU WANTED TO GET A LOT OF PEOPLE TO READ THESE BOOKS, SHE SHOULD'VE GONE AFTER SOMEONE AS FAMOUS AS AGATHA.

HER WHO?

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE IT'S BETTER THAT THIS IS HAPPENING TO YOU AND NOT HER.

AHEM!

W-WELL,

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT HER WORKS ARE FICTIONAL, RIGHT?

THE TANUKI'S STRATEGY MUST BE TO SPREAD THESE STORIES AS *TRUTH*.

A TRUTH THAT'S ESPECIALLY CONVENIENT FOR THEM.

HMM.

SO BETWEEN AGATHA CHRIS Q AND I,

IT WAS A WISE CHOICE.

I GET IT.

SPREADING CONVENIENT TRUTHS TO WORM THEIR WAY INTO PEOPLE'S HEARTS.

ISN'T THAT...?

YES,

IT'S A CLASSIC TENGU TACTIC.

博■■■●幻想郷内、博■■神社の巫女。妖怪退治を行っている。＊楽園の素敵なシャーマン。

OH YEAH, THEY STARTED SELLING THEIR NEWSPAPERS IN TOWN, DIDN'T THEY?

I BET THE TANUKI COULDN'T STOMACH THE THOUGHT OF THAT,

SO THEY CAME UP WITH A WAY TO DO THE SAME THING.

EXACTLY.

OKAY, GOT IT.

TAP

GOOD WORK COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO REPORT THIS.

I'LL HAVE A WORD WITH MAMIZOU TO GET HER TO STOP.

AND GIVE HER SOME PUNISHMENT WHILE I'M AT IT.

...NO.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.

THERE'S BEEN CONFLICT SURROUNDING THE HUMAN VILLAGE SINCE LONG AGO.

WHAT?

WHY NOT?

THE COLD TRUTH IS THAT, TO GENSOKYO, THE VILLAGE IS A COLLECTIVELY OWNED YET IRREPLACEABLE TREASURE.

HAVING POWER IN THE VILLAGE IS THE SAME AS HAVING POWER IN GENSOKYO.

SO LOTS OF YOUKAI ARE ALREADY WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES.

SURE, THE TENGU ARE SELLING NEWSPAPERS, AND THE KAPPA AND GHOSTS AND WHATNOT RUN STALLS THAT SELL TO HUMANS, BUT-

BUT PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THAT, HAVING YOU MOVE AGAINST THE TANUKI, AND ONLY THE TANUKI, WOULD HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT. IT WOULD START A CONFLICT.

WHICH IS WHY I'LL BE PUBLISHING THE TANUKI STORIES.

R-REALLY? U

WE PUT ON A SHOW OF BEING EXPLOITED TO THE YOUKAI AND THEN LIVE UNDER THEIR OVERPROTEC-TIVENESS.

THIS IS THE IDEAL STATUS QUO FOR THE HUMANS OF THE VILLAGE.

WE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT US HUMANS CAN BE TOUGH IN OUR OWN WAY.

SMIRK

WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT THE HIEDA FAMILY WANTS, THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO ABIDE BY IT.

I HATE HAVING TO LET A TANUKI PULL NASTY TRICKS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, THOUGH.

SO, IF YOU'RE PUBLISHING THE BOOK ANYWAY, WHY COME TO ME?

I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I'M NOT BEING TRICKED, JUST IN CASE PUTTING OUT A BOOK ON TANUKI MADE YOU THINK A TANUKI WAS PULLING THE STRINGS.

SOMETHING'S BEEN BUGGING ME FOR A WHILE NOW.

OH, RIGHT,

SPEAKING OF MAMIZOU THOUGH...

I'LL LOOK THE OTHER WAY WHEN THIS TANUKI BOOK COMES OUT.

FINE, I GOT IT.

OR... IS THERE SOME OTHER BOOK SHE'S AFTER HERE?

WAS IT JUST TO HELP FIND SOMEONE WHO COULD WRITE BOOKS FOR HER?

SO IT'S BEEN BOTHERING REIMU TOO.

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE MAMIZOU STARTED BEING A REGULAR CUSTOMER HERE AT SUZUNAAN.

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE FROWNING.

OH, WELCOME.

DING A LING♪

KOSUZU

STOMPSTOMPSTOMPSTOMPSTOMP

ずんずんずんずん

HUH?

WHAT?

I NEED YOU TO STAY CALM AND LISTEN TO ME, OKAY?

WHA-

SHE-

SHE'S A TANUKI?! HER?!

YES. IT'S OBVIOUS THAT SHE HAD SOME ULTERIOR MOTIVE FOR APPROACHING YOU.

...SO THERE YOU HAVE IT.

I WOULD STRONGLY SUGGEST NOT BEING TOO TRUSTING AROUND HER.

IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, SHE MIGHT JUST EAT YOU UP.

WHAT?

OH GOSH!

I'VE BEEN TARGETED BY A YOUKAI?!

KOSUZU WAS CAUGHT COMPLETELY OFF GUARD BY THE REVELATION THAT SHE KNEW A TANUKI.

WHAT DO I DO NOW?!

SHE CONSIDERED WHAT THAT MEANT, MOVING FORWARD.

LUCKILY, SHE HAD JUST READ AKYU'S BOOK ON HOW YOUKAI WERE INFILTRATING HUMAN SOCIETY, SO SHE WASN'T THROWN INTO A STATE OF COMPLETE PANIC.

NONETHELESS, SHE FOUND HERSELF CONSUMED BY A SINGLE THOUGHT:

"JUST HOW FAR HAVE THEY ALREADY INFILTRATED US?"

知らぬが仏…？

IS IGNORANCE BLISS…?

4月号に続く

イラスト／水炊き